

Lepidoptera of South and Central Cornwall, 1973

By E. H. WILD AND J. E. MARSHALL

We have been unable to trace a county list of the lepidoptera of Cornwall and, although the north coast is often visited for its specialities, the south coast has been somewhat neglected apart from Col. Rossell's occasional notes on immigrants. Thus, in an attempt to help fill this gap in our knowledge, we hired a transit van for the first fortnight of August and, accompanied by Mrs E. H. Wild and L. K. Evans, set out with an immense amount of equipment to explore the region around Fowey.

Our headquarters was the "Coach House" at Menabilly (M) occupied by Miss Marshall's uncle and situated in Lord Rashleigh's huge wooded estate on the headland between Fowey and Polkerris where we were given complete freedom to collect. The woods, at one time an experimental area associated with Kew, are dominated by oak and beech with dense rhododendron and bamboo cover. A stream runs through a deep marshy valley and the old paths are overgrown and often impassable. Palms and other exotics grow among the native trees and lichens festoon the vegetation. The cliffs reach 200 feet in places and the shore is rocky.

E. H. W. ran a Robinson trap on the front lawn of the "Coach House". L. K. E. also ran a trap in open parkland 200 feet away but, after cows had twice snapped the cables and overturned the trap, he moved it to a drive outside the park fence. A Heath trap was also run in a nearby narrow ride. Our adventures were many and L. K. E. drove the van into some improbable places in search of potential sites. Once we even used a small boat to carry the lights to an otherwise inaccessible cove between Polkerris and the Little Gribbin.

158 species (macros, pyrales and plumes) were recorded on the estate. A further 24 species were collected using generators and portable lights at other sites which were: Par Marshes (P); Goss Moor (GM); Caerhays (C) and Portholland (PH).

A full list of species is given below together with the localities. The list of Tortricioidea has been added by Miss Marshall. Although rather a commonplace lot, there were a few interesting surprises. A number of birch feeders will be noticed in spite of the absence of this tree from this part of the country.

One of the commonest insects at the Menabilly traps was *Lithosia quadra* L. with a nightly average of about 40, the maximum for one night being 72. The proportion of ♀♀ to ♂♂ was about 1:20. We did not find it outside the estate where it appears to be very well established. *Discoloxia blomeri* Curt. turned up on four nights between 1st and 10th August—very late dates. *Eilema caniola* Hübn. appeared twice in the traps at Menabilly and once at Caerhays. A single *Mythimna putrescens* Hübn. at Menabilly and two at Caerhays were all we could find of this species. *Alcis jubata* Thunb. was fairly common at Menabilly though not elsewhere.

Apart from *Vanessa atalanta* L. and *Udea ferrugalis* Hübn., no immigrants were seen.

Except for the night of August 1st, the weather was generally unfavourable, being wet and windy during the first week followed by a warm spell with clear nights and a bright moon during the second.

Although not within the scope of this paper, it is worth recording that on the journey home we drove into a stubble field near Buckfastleigh, Devon, for a coffee-break and caught three *Euplagia quadripunctaria* Poda on the hedgerows.

SPECIES LIST

Alucitoidea

Alucita hexadactyla L. (M).

Pyraloidea

Chrysoteucha culmella L. (all). *Crambus perella* Scop. (M.C.). *Agriphila tristella* D. & S. (all). *A. geniculea* Haw. (M). *Catoptria pinella* L. (M.C.) *Scoparia cembrella* L. (PH). *Eudonia resinella* L. (M). *E. mercurea* Haw. (C). *Evergestis forficalis* L. (M.P.C). *Eurrhypara hortulata* L. (M). *E. coronata* Hufn. (M.PH). *Ebulea crocealis* Hübn. (M.GM.C). *Udea lutealis* Hübn. (C). *U. olivalis* D. & S. (M). *U. ferrugalis* Hübn. (M). *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. (M). *Pleuroptya ruralis* Scop. (M.C.PH). *Hypsopygia costalis* F. (M). *Achroia grisella* F. (PH) *Eurhodope marmorea* Haw. (PH). *Phycita roborella* D. & S. (M). *Dioryctria abietella* D. & S. (M).

Pterophoroidea

Pterophorus pentadactyla L. (M). *Adaina microdactyla* Hübn. (M). *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* Treits. (C).

Bombycoidea

Malacosoma neustria L. (all). *Macrothylacia rubi* L. (M.C.PH.P.). *Philudoria potatoaria* L. (all).

Geometroidea

Falcaria lacertinaria L. (M). *Drepana cultraria* F. (M). *Thyatira batis* L. (M). *Habrosyne pyritoides* Hufn. (M.C.). *Pseudoterpna pruinata* Hufn. (M). *Hemithea aestivaria* Hübn (M). *Cyclophora linearia* Hübn. (M). *Scopula marginepunctata* Goeze. (M.PH). *S. imitaria* Hübn. (M). *Idaea biselata* Hufn. (M.P.PH). *I. dimidiata* Hufn. (M.C.PH). *I. aversata* L. (all). *Orthonama vittata* Bork. (M). *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* D. & S. (all). *X. ferrugata* Clerck. (M). *X. fluctuata* L. (M.PH). *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* L. (M.C). *Catarhoe cuculata* Hufn. (M.PH). *Epirrhoe alternata* Mull. (all). *E. galiata* D. & S. (M.GM.C.PH). *Captogramma bilineata* L. (M). *Cosmorhoe ocellata* L. (PH). *Ecliptopera silaceata* D. & S. (M.PH). *Chloroclysta citrata* L. (M.GM). *Hydriomena furcata* Thun. (M.GM). *Horisme tersata* D. & S. (M.GM). *Melanthia procel-*

lata D. & S. (M). *Perizoma affinitatum* Steph. (GM). *P. alchemillata* L. (M). *P. flavofasciata* Thun. (PH). *Eupithecia haworthiata* Doubl. (M). *E. pulchellata* Steph. (M.PH.) *E. centauriaria* D. & S. (M). *E. icterata* Vill. (M). *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata* Haw. (M). *Discoloxia blomeri* Curt. (M). *Hydrelia flammeolaria* Hufn. (M.). *Abraxas grossulariata* L. (M. C. GM. PH.). *Lomaspilis marginata* L. (M.GM). *Ligdia adustata* D. & S. (C). *Semiothisa alternaria* Hübn. (M). *S. liturata* Clerck. (M). *Opisthgraptis luteolata* L. (M.P.). *Epione repandaria* Hufn. (P). *Ennomos quercinaria* Hufn. (M). *Selenia dentaria* F. (M.PH). *S. tetralunaria* Hufn. (M). *Crocallis elinguaris* L. (M.GM.PH). *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L.(M.C.). *Biston betularia* L. (all). *Peribatodes rhomboidaria* D. & S. (M). *Alcis repandata* L. (M). *A. jubata* Thun. (M). *Cleorodes lichenaria* Hufn. (M). *Ectropis histortata* Goeze (M.C.) *Cabera exanthemata* Scop. (P.GM). *Lomographa temerata* D. & S. (M). *Campaea margaritata* L. (M). *Hylaea fasciaria* L. (M). *Gnophos obscuratus* D. & S. (M.P.PH).

Sphingoidea

Sphinx ligustri L. (M). *Laothoe populi* L. (M). *Deilephila elpenor* L. (M).

Notodontoidea

Phalera bucephala L. (M). *Notodonta dromedarius* L. (GM.P.C). *Eligmodonta ziczac* L. (M.GM.C). *Pheosia gnoma* F. (M). *P. tremula* Clerck. (M). *Ptilodon capucina* L. (M.P). *Pterostoma palpina* Clerck. (PH).

Noctuoidea

Euproctis similis Fuessly. (M). *Lymantria monacha* L. (M.PH). *Thumatha senex* Hübn. (M.GM). *Miltochrista miniata* Forst. (M.P.). *Eilema griseola* Hübn. (M). *E. caniola* Hübn. (M.C). *E. deplana* Esper. (M.P). *E. lurideola* Zinck. (M.P.C). *Lithosia quadra* L.(M). *Arctia caja* L. (M..GM). *Spilosoma luteum* Hufn. (M.GM.C). *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* L. (M.P. GM.C). *Agrotis segetum* D. & S. (M). *A. exclamationis* L. (M.GM.C). *A. trux* L. (M). *Ochropleura plecta* L. (all). *Noctua pronuba* L. (all). *N. comes* Hübn. (M.C.P.PH). *N. fimbriata* Schreber (all). *N. janthina* D. & S. (all). *N. interjecta* Hübn. (all). *Peridroma saucia* Hübn. (M). *Diarsia brunnea* D. & S. (M). *Xestia c-nigrum* L. (M.PH). *X. baja* D. & S. *X. sexstrigata* Haw. (GM). *X. xanthographa* D. & S. (M). *Dicestra trifolii* Hufn. (M). *Melanchra persicariae* L. (M.PH). *Lacanobia oleracea* L. (M). *Hadena perplexa* D. & S. (C.PH). *H. confusa* Hufn. (C.PH). *H. bicruris* Hufn. (PH). *Cerapteryx graminis* L. (M.GM). *Mythimna ferrago* F. (M.P. C). *M. straminea* Treits. (M). *M. impura* Hübn. (all). *M. pallens* L. (M). *M. putrescens* Hübn. (M.C). *Acronicta psi* L. (M). *Acronycta rumicis* L. (M.P.GM.C). *Craniophora ligustri* D. & S. (M). *Cryphia domestica* Hufn. (M). *C. muralis* Forst. (M.C.PH). *Amphipyra berbera* Rungs. (M). *A. trago-poginis* Clerck. (M.C). *Mormo maura* L. (M). *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. (M). *Ipimorpha subtusa* D. & S. (GM). *Cosmia diffinis* L. (M). *C. trapezina* L. (M.C). *Apamea monoglypha*

Hufn. (all). *A. lithoxylea* D. & S. (C). *A. remissa* Hübn. (M). *A. scolopacina* Esper. (M). *A. ophiogramma* Esper. (C). *Oligia strigilis* L. (M). *O. fasciuncula* Haw. (C.PH). *Mesoligia literosa* Haw. (all). *Mesapamea secalis* L. (all). *Photedes pygmina* Haw. (M). *Luperina testacea* D. & S. (M.C.PH). *Amphipoea oculea* L. (M). *Hydraecia micacea* Esper. (C). *Nonagria typhae* Thunb. (M). *Coenobia rufa* Haw. (M.P). *Hoplodrina alsines* Brahm. (all). *H. blanda* D. & S. (M.C). *H. ambigua* D. & S. (C). *Caradrina clavipalpis* Scop. (M). *Bena prasinana* L. (M). *Colocasia coryli* L. (M.GM.C). *Autographa gamma* L. (all). *A. jota* L. (M.GM.C). *Abrostola trigemina* Werne. (M). *A. triplasia* L.(M.P.PH). *Scoliopteryx libatrix* L. (M.C). *Hypena crassalis* F. (M). *H. proboscidalis* L. (M.PH). *Polypogon tarsipennalis* Treits. (M). *P. nemoralis* F. (M).

Tortricoidea (provisional)

Cydia splendana Hübn. (C). *Rhyaconia pinicolana* Doubl. (M). *Celypha striana* D. & S. (M). *Pandemis corylana* F. (M). *P. cinnamomeana* Treits. (M). *P. heparana* D. & S. (M). *Clepsis consimilana* Hübn. (M). *Lozotaenia forsterana* F. (M). *Croesia forsskaleana* L. (M). *Acleris schalleriana* L. (M). *A. variegana* D. & S. (M). *A. emargana* F. (P.GM). *Agapeta hamana* L. (PH.M.C). *A. zoegana* L. (PH.M.C). *Stenodes straminea* Haw. (PH).

The following butterflies were recorded at Menabilly:

Thymelicus sylvestris Poda. *Pieris brassicae* L. *P. rapae* L. *P. napi* L. *Quercusia quercus* L. *Lycaena phleas* L. *Polyommatus icarus* Rottem. *Vanessa atalanta* L. *Aglais urticae* L. *Inachis io* L. *Argynnis aglaja* L. *A. paphia* L. *Pararge aegeria* L. *Lasiommata megera* L. *Pyromia tithonus* L. *Maniola jurtina* L. *Coenonympha pamphilus* L. *Aphantopus hyperantus* L.

Hyperantus, R.I.P.

By CHARLES F. COWAN

It is surely time that the name of our little Ringlet butterfly *Aphantopus hyperantus* (L.) was laid to rest. Even before Linnaeus died it was being spelt "hyperanthus", but how could one connect flower-power with this unassuming drab insect? Some even tried to rename it after a brother of Xerxes of Persia, Hyperanthes, who died at the hands of Leonidas at Thermopylae.

There is absolutely no excuse for this, for Linnaeus quite clearly explained his 32 Danaid names in his 1758 *Systema Naturae* (1: 467-472). Dividing the Danaids into two sections